

Village of Northfield
Nanci's NOTES

A New Day:

The Trustees of the Village of Northfield made the decision to amend the Manager's contract for the balance of this fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) and make it a full-time position. To that end, it will give them the opportunity to review the current overall structure to carry out Village functions. My part will be to provide them with the information to make good business decisions for future operations.

The Village operates under Charter 257: *The people of the village of Northfield reaffirm faith in government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and describe this government in a charter with provision to review and amend. The charter of the village of Northfield reflects concern to improve the quality of life for all people.*

August 24, 2011

Trustee meeting, August 23, 2011: The Trustees met last night after skipping their August 9th meeting. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on line to get a full accounting of discussions and/or decision that were made by the Board.

Northfield Savings Bank: Bank President, Tom Pelletier attended the meeting to brief the Board on planned renovations at their office on Main Street. The bank continues to be interested in the property currently owned by the Village.

Stantec Engineering: Stantec Engineer, Thomas Nesbitt attended the meeting to ask for Board approval to move forward with a portion of the South Phase water project. This project will replace old water pipes along Route 12 from the intersection of Routes 12 and 12A; so voted.

VPPSA: Brian Callnan, Power Supply Director for Vermont Public Power Supply Authority attended the meeting to give the Trustees an overview of more of the services provided to Northfield Electric Dept by them. He will return for their September 13th meeting to ask for approval to purchase power for two (maybe three) long-term contracts.

Utility Payments: The Utility Department will begin taking payments for water, sewer and electric statements via automatic withdrawal from personal accounts. Forms are available at the utility office. We hope to be set up to accept credit card payments within 2 – 3 months.

Efficiency Vermont Street-lighting Initiative: I applied for and received a grant to replace the existing street lights with new LED fixtures. The total cost estimate is \$334,000. Efficiency Vermont will contribute 10% of the costs to the project. The overall savings are estimated to be \$47,643 in annual maintenance and energy costs.

Slate and Highland Water Project: That project went very well and should be finished this week.

Common Project: south side: This project started out as the West Phase Water Project but was expanded by the Trustees to include burying the utilities and replacing the wall along the sidewalk. The water project was funded in part by ARRA monies (57% or about \$855,000) leaving the balance of about \$645,000 to be paid by the water users. The wall was funded in part (\$24,000) by a Vermont Agency of Transportation Structures grant.

July 27, 2011

Trustee meeting, July 26, 2011: The following is a brief recap of the Trustee's meeting last night. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed on line to get a full accounting of discussions and/or decision that were made by the Board.

Village Streets and Plow Routes: The Village will be working with residents who own property at the end of the plow routes to minimize the time required to remove snow. We will attempt to secure written authorization to access private property for snow removal.

Routes 12 and 12A Sewer System Improvements: Dubois and King Engineers are scheduled for the Trustee meeting on August 23rd. They will be there to report the status of final design for new sewer mains. The primary reason to sewer this area is well field protection. However, picking up approximately 130 new uses to help pay the new debt is a plus.

LED Street Lighting: The Board approved a pilot program for new LED street lights. This will involve installing 5 new lights along Central St. from Wall St. to South St.

July 21, 2011:

The Common Project:

The Common Project is nearing completion with the installation of the new sidewalk and wall. It will be a welcome addition for spectators who enjoy the Labor Day festivities. The street will be ground down and resurfaced to finish off original project. One added feature will be new lights along the wall. We anticipate they will arrive within the next month or so.

New Town Manager:

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Rob Lewis, Town Manager to our organization. The Town and Village work pretty much in unison and share most resources; equipment and personnel. Rob and I share information and ideas daily in an effort to assure operations run as smooth as possible. Staff is to be commended for taking it all in stride. We continue to conduct department head meetings each Thursday a.m. to give them the opportunity to share information and plan functions that involved each other.

Village Trustees:

Village voters elected three new Trustees during their annual meeting in June; Kevin Beal, Dennis Donahue and Dave Maxwell; congratulations. Together we are in the process of prioritizing our goals and objectives for the ensuing year. Infrastructure, economic development and efficiency in operations are high on the list.

Water System Improvements:

Slate and Highland Avenue:

The water system improvements for Slate and Highland Avenue are nearly complete. Individual house connections are in progress with this writing. A new though more or less temporary bituminous sidewalk will be in place at the end of the project. This will serve until we can return to install a new concrete sidewalk with granite curbing.

South Phase:

The voters approved a portion of the South Phase water project that will improve water pressure at the end of the Route 12 (south) end of the system. The Town currently taxes the Village Water Department on all mains outside the village boundary; a situation that the Trustees are trying to resolve. They believe water mains are not taxable and have appealed to the Listers; the next step is an appeal to the BCA.

New Garage for the Utilities:

The new 3-bay garage for the utility department has arrived and is being erected by the crew. The cost for this is about \$50,000 but some savings will be realized by not having to rent the lower level of the municipal building and the crew assembling the structure mostly themselves; now all their equipment can be stored at one location. Unscheduled events can be handled quicker with all parts and needed machinery in one location.

Mapping Project:

The mapping project is complete and now it's a matter of training staff to keep it updated. Our Zoning Administrator has already begun using it. With the summer workload, the utilities staff has yet to explore its uses. Off-season will allow them to work with it.